

Pembridge Parish News

www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

February - March 2020

All you ever wanted to know about Fire Sprinkler Water Tanks

Next time you are in a large store have a look above you. There will be a series of red pipes getting smaller as they branch. They supply the sprinkler system with water. The sprinklers are activated by alcohol expanding in the glass valve upon heating, which in turn causes the glass to break and so releases the water which is propelled by a pump (diesel and electric powered). Generally the water will flow for about one hour twenty minutes.

From the number and density of sprinklers needed (dependant on flammability of building and goods are all part of the planning process) is calculated the size of the water tank required to provide sufficient water. Each company will have a Fire Protection Sprinkler Service Contractor who oversees all the buildings and is responsible for checking sprinklers and pumps. For checking the tank there will be a sub-contractor and generally this is the Pembridge-based firm Liquitech.

Liquitech inspects water tanks for sprinkler systems all over the country. They have ROVs (Remote Operated Vehicles) which can be lowered into the tank so that all internal aspects of the tank can be inspected for corrosion and condition. Some tanks can last thirty years but others can show signs of damage much sooner. Liquitech can refurbish a tank by repairing any corroded areas and then installing a Butyl rubber liner – usually taking one to three weeks. The tank has to be emptied and permission must be obtained from the local water authority as thousands of litres of de-oxygenated water flowing straight into a nearby river will kill any fish and other life-forms in it. The water can be aerated before release to avoid this. They can test for Legionella too but generally the temperature of the stored water is too low for this to develop.

Over time the water can become very filthy – dead pigeons, rats, debris etc and so has to be changed - Weil's disease from rat urine is also a risk. At one particular site the ROV picked up a large black shape about six-foot long lying on the floor of a very deep tank. The site manager was summoned, who in turn called the police. In the end the tank was drained and a member of Liquitech climbed carefully in to find that it was an empty mummy-shaped sleeping bag that had become attached to the floor of the tank and was inflating to look as if there was a body in it. Huge relief that this was not solving any murder enquiries! The theory was, that during the construction of the tank, a worker had elected to sleep in the tank rather than pay digs, and had left his bag, lighter and other artefacts there while he went home, returning to discover that the tank had been filled with water in his absence.

Considering the importance of these structures there is no official inspection policy. Andrew Searles (the Director) is working with large RiskA insurance firms and The British Automated Fire Sprinkler Association to come up with some guidelines, using his extensive collection of detailed reports for reference. Liquitech is becoming an Industry Leader in this field.



They have a work force of fourteen, four office based and the rest on the technical team. Requirements are an ability to work hard, safely and competently in sometimes difficult conditions. It is a physically demanding job and requires a lot of time spent away from home (but the accommodation provided is of a high standard – no sleeping in vans or water tanks). Extensive training is provided on the job with first aid, asbestos awareness and confined space working - which includes working at height. Hazardous atmospheres and self-escape techniques are all topics covered.

Andrew and Marie consider team building vital and have organised some imaginative trips and challenges – kayaking, zip-wiring, go-karting, rally driving and even a trip to Barcelona where the team had to collect a hire car and navigate themselves to the central hotel, then spend a day watching motor racing before repeating the challenge in reverse. Spanish speaking is not usually an employee requirement!

Andrew trained to be a car mechanic but gained experience working for a company which made water tanks. Marie worked in a financial office after leaving school. Spotting that no-one appeared to inspect or refurbish water tanks they started the business fifteen years ago. Through their initial and continuing hard work they have a highly respected company contributing to the safety of staff, buildings and goods for a great many companies throughout the country.

For further information see:

<https://www.liquitech.co.uk>

Diary

Pembridge Film Nights on Sundays – see side panel
7.30 pm New Inn £5 – booking advised.

February

Wed 12th – PALs Inaugural Meeting *
2.00 pm Village Hall

Sat 15th – PGNS Coffee Morning
10.30 – 12 am Village Hall

Wed 19th – Public Meeting on Curl Brook
7.15 pm Village Hall

March

Fri 6th – Music in Quiet Places (G&S) *
7.00 pm St Mary's Church, Pembridge – Donations.

Sat 15th – Hardy Plant Society Talk – Getting the best
from Roses 2.00 pm Village Hall £4

Sat 21st – PGNS Coffee Morning
10.30 – 12 am Village Hall

Sat 28th – Annual Quiz Night £6 pp inc light supper *
7.30 pm Village Hall. Bring own booze (Meryl 01544
340381)

* See *The Arrowvale Messenger* for details

Pembridge Village Hall Bookings

Please contact Lizzie Sharpe 01544 388488 for any enquiries

Pembridge Film Nights

We are part of Borderlines for the first time this year, but seats for both our Borderlines films (**Honeyland on 8th March** and **Carousel - Herefordshire Life Through a Lens on 15th March**) can already be reserved on our own website at pembridgefilmnights.org or 01544 387571. We confidently expect both these films to sell out via Borderlines, so regular Pembridge Film Nights fans wishing to book would be well advised to get in quickly!

There are still some seats available for three upcoming films: **Shoplifters on 16th February** and **Hear My Song on 23rd February**.

Many thanks for your support, without which all our effort would be pointless! Richard and Geoff

Village Carol Singing on 22nd December 2019

Many thanks to all those who sang and to those who opened their doors and donated so generously. The event made a grand total of **£370** which was split evenly between the Christmas Tree Fund and Pride in Pembridge.

Robbie Williams

Pembridge WI has now become PALs (Pembridge Active Ladies)

We will continue to meet in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of the month and our activities will carry on as before with the reading group meeting in our homes, tea and chat in The Steppes, ten-pin bowling at The Grove, walking and lunching and taking coach trips and train trips and anything that any of us cares to organise.

If you would like to join us at any time for fun, friendship and support, we would be very pleased for you to do so (there is no annual fee, only the cost of the event at the time).

February meeting: Wed February 12th at 2.00 pm in Village Hall - Inaugural Meeting.

March Meeting: Wed. March 11th at 7.00 pm Village Hall - An Evening of Paper Craft.

Contact Marguerite Fothergill 01544388279 margueritefothergill@gmail.com for details of events that are happening.

Fund-Raising for a Defibrillator in Broxwood

After attending a first aid course arranged for the Pembridge Buyers Group, Jacqui & Glyn, Ceinwen & Glyn, David & Angela, Claire & Mark - all local farmers and their families, decided to form a fund raising group to buy a defibrillator for Broxwood. Our first event was carol singing on 23rd December around Broxwood, and we were delighted to be so well supported by the community. Glyn's father, from Lower Green Farm, was in the original Broxwood choir, so it was great to bring this back again. We raised over £500. Great fun was had by all, as we sung our way around lots of homes, and were greeted by a mince pie or two and a glass of something warming.

The red pillar phone box is well loved and used by everyone as a book exchange, so we thought it would be a good idea to place the defibrillator there. We have the support of the Parish Council and we certainly intend to carry out further fund raising in the spring, and have applied for a grant. As it was such a success we are hoping to continue supporting Broxwood Village in whatever way we can.

Jacqui Hughes



The Book Exchange, Broxwood.

Village Christmas lights: Another Christmas passes by and Pembridge is once again the talk of the County for its super lights display. This only happens because of hard work, good organisation and financial support from the Parish Council for all to enjoy. Thanks to that band of hard workers and especially all those who help put up the trees, keep them up and clear them away! You are all real stars! (Part of Parish Council News from page 3)

Pembridge Parish Council

From your local County Councillor Roger Phillips rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

In 2005 working with my colleague from Eardisley we had installed grey monitoring boxes which record every day the number, type and speed of traffic through our main villages. Every year I report the October figures to my Parish councils in full (including speed and timings) and summarise the number and type of vehicles in my updates.

Combined traffic flows summary- October 2016-2019

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Shobdon	4643	4602	4639	4380
Lyonshall	2393	2271	2149	2472
Eardisley	4394	4222	4643	4434
Pembridge	2699	2851	2830	2824

Combined vehicle classifications- All villages 2019 (5-day)

	Shobdon	Lyonshall	Eardisley	Pembridge
Motorcycle	25	9	13	4
Car or Light Van	3306	915	3301	990
Car + trailer	66	23	70	19
Rigid, Van/Mini bus	722	191	794	296
Articulated HGV	252	34	246	98
Bus or Coach	10	12	10	2

The figures show that Shobdon and Eardisley continue to have the highest volumes of traffic and the most HGVs and heavy vehicles. I choose October as it reflects a busy time of year agriculturally and have included the figures for the last three years as held by Herefordshire Council. I continue to press for this monitoring to be

done as it demonstrates the development of traffic movements in this part of the County. It is also important to remember that the grey box in Pembridge is sited on the west end so traffic from Bridge Street turning east is not recorded. The two largest HGV sources will, of course, be Kingspan and the Quarries just over the Welsh border. When the opportunity arises I would like to get some figures for Rhyse lane.

PHOSPHATES and PLANNING

Hopefully you will all have heard that planning applications which involve residential dwellings and increase of pressure on sewage capacity have been frozen in the parish. This is due to Natural England's stance on the phosphate levels recorded in the river Lugg catchment area which includes the Arrow and Curl brook. This has serious implications on new developments, including modest extensions, and in some cases, existing developments. The two main sources of the phosphate are Agricultural and human waste and I am working with officers and agencies to try and get a plan together to release the ban otherwise the consequences will be very serious for the area. Interestingly because of the large amount of old lead piping in the system Welsh Water for public health reasons has to add phosphate to our water supply so the matter is not easy to resolve.

Locally for the last three years local landowners have been working with the Wye and Usk foundation on a project to improve the quality and diversity of the curl brook. On **Wednesday 19th February** public meeting to explain the project and some of the challenges we face. **Village hall at 7.15 pm.**

Parish Council News

New Parish Council Website – Please Register for news/event email updates

Pembridge Parish Council now has a new website www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk loaded with local parish information! If you would like to receive email alerts on all the latest news and event published please visit the site and re-register with your email address.

Parish request for Precept

At the December meeting, the Parish Council agreed to increase the precept to £34,000 for Parish requirements 2020-21, following intentions reported in the previous parish magazine. The decision has been taken after consideration of all potential expenditure the parish may incur during 2020-21. The budget includes funding for the parish Lengthsman to undertake various jobs and extra allocation for continuing the mowing contract. The Parish Council are committed to invest in areas of the parish that need improvement including the playground, bell tower, toilet block and car park. It is also mindful it may incur expenses and be required to undertake legal action to secure the Village Green boundary and reverse an encroachment on Parish owned land, which it must do by law. It is no longer possible for the budget to run at a deficit and reserves are held to support and fund planned project works. All figures are highlighted fully in the budget and published minutes which can be accessed on the Pembridge Parish Council website. www.pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Parish Mowing Contract Renewal

The Parish Council has appointed James Ross as the contractor for mowing grass throughout the village, including the millennium meadow and the village green for the 2020 contract.

Lengthsman work

During the winter months, the lengthsman will work to maintain ditches and drainage issues throughout the parish and he will also be repairing and clearing pathways across the parish. If you find any areas where work is required, please contact the Clerk Rebecca Bissell. email: clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Report all highway or footpath issues straight onto the Herefordshire Council website

Winter is well and truly upon us and these wet and cold conditions will cause road surface issues. If you find a pothole or footpath problem anywhere in Herefordshire you can report it on Herefordshire Council website. All reports are logged and updated immediately onto the council's database. If you would like to report a pothole log on to www.herefordshire.gov.uk and navigate through the transport and highways section.

Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Wednesday February 26th - Ordinary Meeting in the Parish Hall 7.00pm

Wednesday March 18th - Ordinary Meeting in the Parish Hall 7.00pm.

Leen Times

What a difference a year makes - this time last year, the cows were out grazing and the river was almost down to summer level! This year everything is absolutely sodden, there seems to have been rain almost every day for weeks and our dirty water lagoon is absolutely brim full. Thank goodness we have got to the time of year that we can spread it on the fields (where it is dry enough). The cattle know very little of it, with a warm dry straw bed to lie on and daily rations of silage and cattle 'cake' for them to feed on. The chickens lead such a sheltered life that they know nothing of what goes on outside and the waste that these two enterprises produce quietly continues to give us the heat and energy that we need to run it all.

Wildlife news: A Dawn chorus already! At least it's a reasonable time, but I do not remember so much song so early in the year. However the Lapwings turned up in force the other day, they usually come in front of hard weather, so... Otters seen in the Curl, and a photo of 2 Foxes courting beneath one of our bird boxes in some rare January sunshine.



Two foxes courting

A Sparrow Hawk is making use of our bird feeding stations - but with no visible success.... Yet.

It's time for the Big Farm Bird Count again 7-16th February. If you would like to take part and are or know a farmer: <https://www.bfbc.org.uk/>

Trees again! I have been involved with 4 community tree planting efforts over the last few years: 2000 trees for 2000 including the Millennium Meadow planting, trees in the school grounds, 2007 Village green and 2014 Village Green tree planting.

Trees have been very much in the news recently and I always encourage the children to be involved with them - so I would like to organise planting some more.

HAS ANYONE GOT A PATCH OF GROUND (PREFERABLY NEAR THE VILLAGE) THAT THE SCHOOL COULD PLANT TREES ON?

Almost any size between a tennis court to a football field - it could remain private afterwards but of course it would be great to have access. I think I could find the trees/guards etc. Please let me know.

Tony Norman tony@theleen.co.uk

We are a free service supporting people in the Parish of Pembridge. If you need someone to:

- Fetch a prescription
- Walk or feed your pet
- Do some shopping
- Just call in for a chat

These are just a few examples of what we could help you with. Just give us a call - we look forward to hearing from you.

The Steppes

Tue - Sat: 10.00 am - 5.00 pm 01544 388506

The Pembridge Cafe

Mon: 9 am - 4 pm, Tues:- Closed all day
Wed - Sat: 9 am - 4 pm Sun: 10 am - 4 pm
Private meeting room available 01544 388922

Townsend Farm Shop & Butchery

Mon, & Tues 9 am - 10 am
Wed - Sat 9 am - 4 pm Sunday: 9 am - 12.30 pm

Old Chapel Gallery

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat: 10.00 am - 5.00 pm
Sunday: 11.00 am - 4.00 pm 01544 388842

Mobile Post Office

Mon 14:00 - 15:00 Thursday 15:30 - 16:30
Friday 13:30 - 15:00

Tricia's Hair Salon

Tues, Wed, Fri 9.00 - 5.00 pm Thurs 9.00 - 6.00 pm
Appointments only on Saturday - 01544 388665

The Ear Lady

Mon - Fri 9.00 - 5.00 Sat by appointment
Venue: Tricia's Hair Salon 01544 388665
Sarah Cain is offering private hearing assessments,
private dispensing of hearing aids and ear wax removal

Playground Improvements:

There are now two new swing seats and chains - purchased and installed by the Bonfire Committee. The Pips team is busy getting costs for the proposed new playground equipment, outdoor gym and Multi Play area and hope to apply for funds shortly.

Your Parish Councillors and contact details

Clr Garfield Evans - Chairman:	garfield.evans@gmail.com
Clr Andrew Pace - Vice Chairman	340696
Clr Tom Bennetto	388972
Clr Kevin Duggan	388833
Clr Ms Catherine Fothergill	388279
Clr Michael Hancock	387941
Clr Mrs Julie Mifflin	388414
Clr Steve Jones	07989 715075
Clr David Owens	388422
Clr Wendy Powell	340341
Clr Philip Rogers	387976
Clr Phillip Thomas	388457
Clr Roger Phillips - Ward Councillor	340269

Clerk: Mrs Rebecca Bissell
Firbanks, Lyonshall, Kington HR5 3LN
clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk